

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	M-00	VCIE-00
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	PA-00
	MCC-00	PER-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	R-00	SCRS-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/001W

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 001649

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICAWATCHERS, DEPT FOR AF/C, DRL, INR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [CD](#)

SUBJECT: CHAD: REQUEST FOR UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The final version of a UN report on Chad's electoral needs released to donors November 4 concluded that the national institutions responsible for managing elections lacked independence, that the most recent electoral census was not credible and that the recent amendments to the constitution represented a backwards step in Chad's democratic evolution. Looking ahead to future elections (local, legislative and presidential) scheduled between now and the spring of 2006, the UN report concluded that it was imperative to revise the electoral code and to review the voter registration rolls. The UNDP Resident Representative (ResRep) informed donors that absent concrete, verifiable steps taken by the government to reach a consensus with opposition parties and civil society on steps needed to create a credible electoral process, the UN would not seek to mobilize international support for future elections. Donors based in Chad were skeptical that the Government of Chad was interested in engaging in such a dialogue. End summary.

¶2. (SBU) UNDP ResRep Kingsley Amaning invited major donors (U.S., Germany, France and EC) to a meeting November 4 to discuss the GOC request for assistance with elections in 2005-2006. Amaning provided to donors a copy of the findings of an April 2005 visit by a UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) team. The DPA report, prompted by the GOC request for assistance with the June 2006 referendum, drew the following conclusions: the national institutions responsible for managing elections lacked independence, the most recent electoral census was not credible and the proposed changes to the constitution represented a backwards step in Chad's democratic evolution. Even had the assistance for the referendum been requested sufficiently in advance, the UN would have declined to support the process.

¶3. (SBU) Looking ahead to future elections (local, legislative and presidential) scheduled between now and the spring of 2006, the UN report stated that it was imperative to revise the electoral code and to review the voter registration rolls. A new electoral census might be necessary given that the most recent census appeared to overstate the number of eligible voters by about one million. The report also stressed the need for this to take place in the context of a dialogue between the Government, political parties and civil society; failure to do so ran the risk of having opposition parties boycott future elections.

¶4. (SBU) Amaning reported to donors that UNDP recognized that the UN has an important responsibility to help move the country towards democracy. At the same time, the country was a long way from fulfilling the conditions necessary for free and fair elections. Amaning stressed that UNDP needed confirmation that the government and other political actors were willing to take the steps necessary toward that common goal. If progress was demonstrated, the UN would seek to mobilize the international community and provide financing for elections.

15. (SBU) In the meantime, Amaning stated that UNDP intended to proceed with the visit of a technical group to study the electoral rolls and provide recommendations on specific action necessary to restore credibility to the rolls. He intended to strongly encourage the government to open a dialogue with all political parties and civil society in order to achieve common ground on certain key issues, specifically: restoring credibility to the voter rolls and revising the electoral code to ensure independence of the national institutions charged with election oversight. Amaning stated that if the government and partners could reach a consensus on these steps, the UN stood ready to assist in supporting them. Absent progress, they would not.

16. (SBU) Donors present supported the UNDP approach, expressing at the same time doubt as to the possibility of a "dialogue" reaching a consensus and whether the government was genuinely interested in such a dialogue. EC Rep Phillippe Thomas noted that the EC was bound by the Cotonou agreement which stipulated a dialogue and respect for human rights as pre-conditions to providing assistance. He also opined that there was not enough time to take the steps necessary for credible elections in the timetable envisaged by the government.

17. (SBU) EmbOff noted that support for elections was one of the few "carrots" available to the international community, and that donors needed to be judicious in extending this assistance. She recalled that the government already claimed to have started a dialogue with the opposition parties, and that, if this was a pre-condition, the UN needed to be clear about what expectations were for the dialogue. Amaning clarified that the UN did not envisage a "national forum" as requested by the coalition of opposition parties (French acronym CPDC), but they did need to see concrete evidence of consensus on the steps necessary to make the electoral process acceptable to all parties. Amaning agreed that the current "dialogue" could not be accurately described as such; rather it might be considered a "pre-dialogue."

Comment:

18. (SBU) Amaning had provided Ambassador earlier an unedited version of the UN report which stated bluntly that any UN support for elections in Chad needed to be carefully coordinated with the international community in order to avoid having the UN be seen as an "accomplice of the government." The unedited report also strongly condemned the move to revise the constitution and described the government as widely seen as a "vampire" living off of oil resources and leaving the international community to attend to Chad's basic needs. The final report uses more judicious language but pulls no punches in coming out against election support under current circumstances. We, and other donors here, are of the same view.

19. Minimized Considered

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